

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Michael D. BONGEAU

Serial No.: 08/846,405

Filed: April 30, 1997

For: ENDOVASCULAR SUPPORT DEVICE
AND METHOD

Atty. Docket No.: P106-CON.2

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Group Art Unit No.: 3308

Primary Examiner: Debra S. Brittingham

OK
3/17/98

#9

RECEIVED

MAR 10 1998

GROUP 3300

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE
MAILING DATE OF EITHER A FINAL ACTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Sir:


The Information Disclosure Statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* three months from the filing date of this national application; three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but BEFORE the mailing of either a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

Applicants elect the option of paying the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). Please charge Deposit Account No. 01-2525 in the amount of \$240.00 to cover the fee required. If

03/02/1998 JARTIS 00000065 DAN:012525 08846405
FC:126

any additional fees are due with respect to this submission, you are also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2525. A duplicate of this authorization is attached.

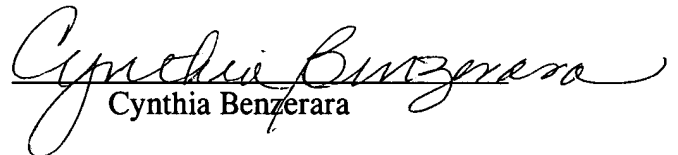
Respectfully submitted,


Richard L. Klein
Registration No. 33,330
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in the envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: Jan. 29, 1998


Cynthia Benzerara

#9

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Michael D. POREBAU

Serial No.: 08/846,405

Filed: April 30, 1997

For: ENDOVASCULAR SUPPORT DEVICE
AND METHOD

Atty. Docket No.: P106-CON.2



:
:
: Group Art Unit No.: 3308
:
: Primary Examiner: Debra S. Brittingham
:
:
:
:

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached hereto is Form PTO-1449 listing documents believed relevant to the subject application. It is respectfully requested that these documents be considered by the examiner and an initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

This disclosure statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive and comprehensive search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 609. If for some reason the examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

A copy of each document is enclosed. These documents are not necessarily analogous art. The relevance of each document will now be discussed.

Document AA (U.S. Patent No. 4,214,587 issued to SAKURA, JR.) discloses an anastomosis device 10 comprising a continuous resilient filament 11 formed into a S-shaped pattern. The device includes barbs 12 which attach the device to the vessel wall.

Documents AB (U.S. Patent No. 4,830,003 issued to WOLFF *et al.*) shows a self-expanding stent formed of a plurality of wires welded together in pairs at alternate ends.

Document AC (U.S. Patent No. 4,886,062 issued to WIKTOR) discloses a radially expandable stent which is formed by winding a wire around a mandrel into a zig-zag pattern.

Document AD (U.S. Patent No. 4,913,141 issued to HILLSTEAD) shows a stent 12 mounted on catheter 10. A delivery wire 40 maintains the stent in its compressed configuration until delivered to the site within the vessel, then, as the wire is withdrawn, the spring characteristics of the stent cause it to expand radially outward.

Document AE (U.S. Patent No. 4,969,458 issued to WIKTOR) discloses a balloon-expandable wire stent.

Document AF (U.S. Patent No. 4,994,077 issued to DOBBEN) shows a heart valve which can be anchored by a self-expanding zig-zag shaped stent of the type stated by the patent to be attributed to Gianturco (column 3, lines 53+).

Document AG (U.S. Patent No. 5,019,090 issued to PINCHUK) shows a radially expandable wire stent which is formed by winding wire 39 around mandrel 38 to form a generally sinusoidal character and wound in a generally helical fashion around mandrel 41 to

complete formation of the stent.

Document AH (U.S. Patent No. 5,104,399 issued to LAZARUS) discloses a graft with anchoring/staple means 16 and 17.

Document AI (European Patent Application No. 0 312 852 A1) is the European patent application counterpart of Document AC.

Document AJ (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 1-145076) is the Japanese counterpart to Documents AC and A

Document AK (U.K. Patent Application No. 2,092,894) shows an arterial graft with reinforcing members.

Document AL (Soviet Inventor's Certificate No. 1457921) discloses a self-fixing blood vessel prosthesis including zig-zag fastening element 4.

Document AM (Soviet Inventor's Certificate No. 1217402) shows a vessel prosthesis which is compressed and loaded into a catheter. When the catheter is subsequently withdrawn, the prosthesis opens under the action of the spring force of fastening element 3.

Document AN (WRIGHT *et al.* article) discusses implantation and evaluation of self-expanding stents of zig-zag pattern.

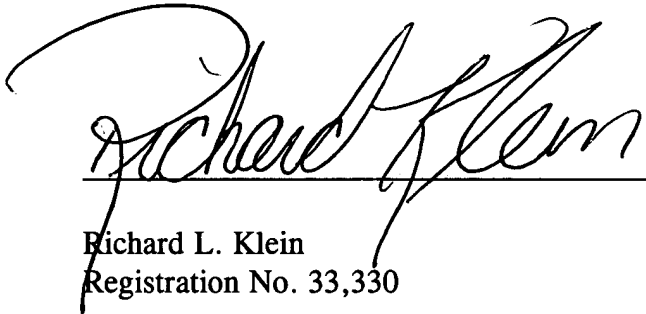
Document AO (ROSCH *et al.* article) reports the results of implantation of original and modified Gianturco stents. The article states that after the stent is freed from the catheter, it may be further distended with an angioplasty balloon.

Document AP (LAWRENCE *et al.* article) discusses placement and follow-up of an endovascular graft incorporating a Gianturco stent.

Document AQ (YOSHIOKA *et al.* article) discusses an endovascular graft including a framework of three or four self-expanding stents connected in tandem by metallic struts and covered by an expandable nylon/lycra cylinder.

Document AR (MIRICH *et al.* article) discloses construction of a self-expanding arterial graft. The graft consists of three self-expanding zig-zag stents connected in tandem. The lead stent remains bare while the remaining two are covered with nylon.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Klein
Registration No. 33,330